Hey Rowan. It's Dad. Had something to tell you.

It's okay to be scared sometimes. I used to be scared of chainsaws. True story, no lie. Imagine a farm kid afraid of chainsaws.

When I was a kid there was this TV show called *Unsolved Mysteries*. Robert Stack hosted it and narrated the episodes in this deep, ominous voice. I remember an episode that was about the Hell's Angels, a motorcycle gang in Los Angeles. Well it just so happens that we actually vacationed to California that summer and your Grammy teased me. I was legitimately scared of that. Funny, right?

I'm kind of deviating from the point here. You don't have anything to be scared about, son. I can see how maybe the thing with Gabe last year and then this and there here or there along the way, maybe you worry about a lot. You don't have too. I got you. Mom's got you. We didn't create you to ever let anything happen to you.

I'm 49, dude, and I still get scared of things. Not like panicky scared but I sometimes struggle speaking in public. I had a lot of fear a couple of years ago when an acquaintance my age passed away. These things you cannot allow to dominate your life and your joy in living. I told you a few days ago to enjoy being a kid. What I would do to trade it, to be young like you again with all this future ahead of me.

Unfortunately that is not how it works. But when you understand how it does work you will see. You will understand the need for school, for study, for understanding. You will have children one day too. These lessons are passed from generation to generation.

In the meantime, relax. That's it; just relax. Enjoy turning 10. That's double digits dude, and you're no longer a square. (3 x 3 or 3^2 [squared] = 9) But when you turn 11 you will be in your prime again!

Math jokes. Those are always fun.

Speaking of which, I want you to focus, take your time, do not get frustrated, do not be scared, and do the very best you can on your testing tomorrow. Use that big brain everyone knows you have. Sometimes you have to show it, my dude.

I do not know if you will have time to read this but you can always read it later. Love you, son.